

COMMUNIST POLICY LEAFLET

HIGH WAGES— FULL EMPLOYMENT

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High Wages— Full Employment

THE HEALTH AND HAPPINESS OF THE OVERWHELMING majority of the people depend on the wages or salary they get.

The total of wages and salaries decides how much the people are able to buy.

The more they are able to buy, the greater is the demand for food, clothes, furniture and all the products of industry.

The greater the demand for goods, the more jobs there are in industry and transport.

HIGHER WAGES AND FULL EMPLOYMENT GO TOGETHER

The time has come for all round rises in wages and salaries.

Before the war, wages were far too low. In some industries they were a disgrace. The lower paid workers in every industry did not get enough for minimum human needs. Women were paid “cheap labour” rates.

During the war, wage rates have lagged behind prices. True, wages are better in mining and agriculture. But wage rates, officially put at 40 per cent. on the average above pre-war, have lagged behind the rise in prices, which the Government's Budget White Paper put at 54 per cent. This means that when

hours go back to normal, the workers are worse off than before the war.

Wages have not kept pace with prices. In some industries women have got equal pay with men, "the rate for the job." But most employers still regard women as "cheap labour," and rates for "women's work" are still disgracefully low.

Wages have not kept pace with output. Output per hour is officially estimated to have risen during the war by 30 per cent. After the war it will be higher still. **This rise in output must be reflected in wages.**

So the Communist Party says: **In the National interest, a new wages scale should be operated in every industry, giving substantial all round advances. No-one, man or woman, should be paid less than the minimum wage-rate of £4 10s. 0d. a week.**

The Government must also take steps to reduce prices and the taxation that falls on working people.

THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST HIGHER WAGES.

The employers in many industries will say: "We can't afford it."

The answer is: "If you can't run your industry so as to give decent conditions to the men and women who do the work, let the State take it over and run it properly."

Some employers will say: "Britain must export and so wages must be kept low."

The answer is : " That is the policy which brought the world to cut-throat competition and economic crisis. We are not going back to that. Britain, the U.S.A., and the Soviet Union have agreed on economic co-operation. That is the way forward, not competition based on low wages."

If costs have to be reduced, cut down the monopoly prices, cut out unnecessary middlemen, and improve the production methods.

The case for higher wages and full employment is unanswerable.

Recommended reading :

**HIGHER WAGES AND FULL
EMPLOYMENT, 6d.**

**ENGINEERING PROSPECTS
AND WAGES, 6d.**

*If you wish to know more about other questions of
Communist Policy, advice on reading material,
or details of membership, write to :—*

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